

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of editing a plurality of structures structured documents, comprising the steps of:
- (a) acquiring a plurality of structured documents in a document edit system; and
- (b) extracting a plurality of elements in each of said plurality of structured documents using an element edit statement which indicates element to be extracted, wherein the elements are extracted while the relationship of the elements extracted is maintained.
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2. (Currently Amended) A method of editing a plurality of documents each containing a plurality of structured elements, said method comprising the steps of:
- (a) acquiring a plurality of documents to be edited into a document edit system;
- (b) acquiring an element edit statement into said document edit system, said element edit statement comprising a plurality of edit instructions for searching at least one element in the documentdocuments;
- (c) defining an element search portion, said element search portion containing a plurality of documents in the documentdocuments; and
- (d) implementing match operations between an element defined in said element edit statement and each of the elements in said element search portion, and ascertaining an element of said element search portion which matches the element defined in said element edit statement, the matched element being extracted from said document if the

matched element is indicated as being extracted, the extracted element being stored in an edit result storage, and said match operations being repeated until completing all the edit instructions in the element edit statement.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said plurality of documents is subject to editing on a document-by-document basis.

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4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein the elements stored in said edit result storage are further edited before being retrieved from said document edit system.

5. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a tag which is delimited using two selected characters, said tag being used to define an element which is an identified element in the element search portion of the document.

6. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a character pattern consisting or of normal text characters in sequence.

7. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a wild card tag which is defined by a selected character delimited using two selected characters, said wild card tag being used to determine structured layers in the element search portion of the document.

8. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a negation indicator which is defined using a selected character and accompanies an element-defining name, said negation indicator being used to define an

element wherein an element match is not established with a character sequence immediately following said negation indicator.

9. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains an extraction indicator defined using a selected character and accompanying a character sequence, said extraction indicator being used to extract an element from the element search portion of the document if said character sequence matches the element in the element search portion.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a sequence connector defined by a selected character, said sequence connector accompanying two element-defining names at both sides of said sequence connector, said sequence connector specifying, in the element search portion, two elements positioned in the same order of said two element-defining names.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains a hierarchy connector defined by inserting no character between first and second element-defining names, said hierarchy connector being used to determine if an element defined by said first element-defining name involves an element defined by said second element-defining name.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains parentheses involving a plurality of element-defining names that are preferentially processed.

13. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains an AND connector defined using a selected character and accompanying first and second element-defining names which are provided so as to sandwich said AND

connector, said two element-defining names being used to determine if the element, which forms part of the element search portion and is defined by said first element-defining name, either follows or precedes the element which is defined by said second element-defining name.

14. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein, if either of said first or second element-defining names sandwiching said AND connector specifies the corresponding element in the document, a match is established therebetween and the corresponding element is extracted and stored in said edit result storage.

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15. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein if a match is established in connection with only one of said first and second element-defining names, the element already stored in said edit result storage is deleted therefrom.

16. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said element edit statement contains an OR connector defined using a selected character and accompanying first and second element-defining names which are provided in a manner to sandwich said OR connector, said two element-defining names being used to determine if the element, which forms part of the element search portion and is specified by either of said first and second element-defining names, is present in the element search portion of the document.

17. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising:  
acquiring another element edit statement into said document edit system, said another element edit statement being used to edit the elements which have been extracted.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein said another element edit statement comprises another set of document editing instructions which

*b6* are used for initializing a plurality of variables provided for editing the elements extracted, pre-editing, post-editing, and arranging the elements extracted.

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